

# progressionINcorrections

JUL/AUG 2006, Volume 4

Indiana Department of Correction Employee Newsletter

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## From the Commissioner...

It has been said that a perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

While they are enjoying their summer leisure, too many Hoosiers fail to fully appreciate the important mission of public safety collectively fulfilled by the more than 7,300 hardworking women and men of the Indiana Department of Correction. This service of protection and restoration must be provided to more than 24,000 felony and delinquent offenders 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Much of this edition of "progressionINcorrections" is devoted to the things we are doing to improve the services provided by the Department, and the professionalism of its staff.

As Commissioner, my over arching plan is nothing short of positioning this Agency to be as effective as it can be. Why? Because improving effectiveness means incorporating security measures and training fundamental correctional practices and expecting them to be adhered to, in order to insure safe and smooth operation at each facility. Effectiveness means doing all we can to prepare offenders for successful community reintegration. We are now keeping watch over the number of offenders who fail to transition by returning to a life of crime and who return to the Department, often to serve even longer periods of incarceration. If the new procedures, programs, and initiatives we commit to today will ultimately reduce this rate of recidivism by even a small percentage in future years, we all will have helped prevent thousands of potentially serious crimes

from being committed against innocent citizens, and will have saved Indiana millions of dollars in criminal justice costs. There are few duties in this world more virtuous than protecting the innocent.



**J. David Donahue**

Before I list some of the more notable improvements that have been instituted since the last edition of this newsletter, I would like to again remind everyone that I welcome new ideas for improvement. Without a doubt there are still areas of deficiency that can best be identified by the people working closest to them. Certainly some of the finest ideas for improvement to date have come, not from staff members sitting on facility or Department Executive Boards, but who walk the ranges every day, or work most closely with the population of convicted persons we supervise and serve. I sincerely welcome your feedback and ideas. They can be shared directly with me by e-mailing: IDOC@doc.in.gov.

The Department has made positive changes in several other areas, including:

- Working to enhance the level of professionalism among correctional staff, by enforced new protocols that include pre-employment drug screening, periodic criminal background checks, and drug screens on all employees. To attract additional quality employees, the Department successfully proposed

*story continued on page 3*

## Donation for South Bend Work Release



The South Bend Work Release Center recently received a donation from Matthew Eppers, the President of E Industries, in the amount of \$1,393.60 for the purchase of a flag pole and flag for the facility. Mr. Eppers has worked with South Bend Work Release for many years providing gainful employment opportunities for offenders assigned to the work release program. E Industries is a strong supporter of work release, realizing the benefits to the company as well as to society. ■

## Wabash Valley Takes the LEAD

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility is taking the lead when it comes to preventing juvenile delinquency. Project LEAD (Legal Education to Arrest Delinquency) is brought to fifth grade classrooms around the state through the efforts of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Students divide their time between textbook study and guest lecturers from law enforcement, the courts and corrections.

WVCF Public Information Officer Rich Larsen has been part of LEAD activities in both Daviess and Vermillion County for several years. Larsen describes for students the consequences of making bad decisions and what offenders can do to successfully re-enter society.

"Students ask lots of intelligent questions about what prison is like," Larsen said. "They know it's not what they see in the movies but are surprised to learn that while incarcerated offenders can spend their time going to college, learning a trade, holding down a job, going to church and preparing to be contributing members of society."

Students also learn that Be Smart, Choose Freedom is more than a slogan. One LEAD student wrote a thank you note saying; "Thanks for coming to our school. I went home that night and discussed it with my parents. It really took effect on my brother because he hardly drinks anymore. I would like to thank you again because you really caught my attention."

## Kush Jenkins Selected by AICPA

Kush Jenkins, Accountant 5 at Central Office, was selected by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) as one of the top 100 accounting scholars of 2006. He was chosen

amongst America's undergraduate and graduate students who are in their final year of study in the accounting field. Kush has been with the Department since 2003. Congratulations Kush! ■



### The Mission of the Department of Correction

The mission of the Indiana Department of Correction is to maintain public safety and provide offenders with self improvement programs, job skills and family values in an efficient and cost effective manner for a successful return to the community as law-abiding citizens.

## progressionINcorrections

We welcome all submissions -

Please submit articles to:

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**[www.in.gov/indcorrection/](http://www.in.gov/indcorrection/)**

**From the Commissioner... – story continued from page 1**

to Indiana's General Assembly a change in law that recognizes the hazardous duty assignments undertaken by correctional employees, and paves the way for better benefits and compensation for all DOC facility staff, parole officers, and emergency response team members. I have also approved, and recently distributed a description of a new tuition reimbursement plan that will be afforded to Department employees.

- In order to implement much needed repairs and renovations to several of Indiana's older prisons, the Department successfully brokered a contract that, at no added cost to taxpayers, brought in a national vendor to make improvements to facility heating, air conditioning, ventilation, lighting, and other conditions of confinement. The vendor would be paid only from a percentage of the \$38.1 million savings estimated from more efficient utility operations over the course of the ten year agreement. Improvements include installation of new boilers to be fueled by Indiana corn, which not only burns cleaner, it supports Indiana's economic growth instead of relying on foreign fuel sources. This change will also put more offenders to work, by having them stoke boilers and handle corn storage and movement.
- Launched a new web site that lists pictures and identifying information on the fugitives most wanted by the IDOC. Included on this site are offenders who have escaped from secured confinement as well as those who have failed to appear at scheduled meetings with parole. This site serves as a useful tool for the Department's Parole Services Division, but also assists local probation, law enforcement and federal authorities to identify those individuals that may need to be

removed from the streets before they engage in additional crimes. This site is found at [www.in.gov/indcorrection/wanted](http://www.in.gov/indcorrection/wanted).

- Developed a Directory entitled "Inside the Walls of the Indiana Department of Correction: a Reference Directory for Judges" that was delivered to all courts in Indiana with criminal jurisdiction. Because of popular demand, this Directory was also provided to all sheriffs and prosecutors offices throughout Indiana. This Directory, for the first time, provides to the courts and other criminal justice stakeholders a comprehensive review of the correctional process, and provides to judges the points of contact they can use to receive timely, meaningful and accurate information about the Department, and the offenders they send to the Department.
- Instead of only 5% of the offender population having to submit to a random drug test each month the number of tests is doubling to 10% to apply greater pressure on offenders wishing to traffic and use drugs in prison. To help with police trafficking and other criminal offenses in prison, a State Police Detective was assigned to Central Office to assist the Department's Internal affairs Division on matters relating to criminal investigations. This direct involvement should also lead to speedier prosecutions of criminal cases.
- In the past many juvenile facilities placed restrictions on visitation, such as allowing one family member per week to visit their incarcerated child. Changes were made, and continue to evolve that encourages more visitation and greater family involvement in their son/daughters rehabilitation.

- Implemented a change in the Department's visitation policy. In the past, staff and volunteers were prohibited from maintaining contact with offenders after their release. This practice interfered with important follow-up by volunteers (many of them members of the faith community) during the critical period of time immediately following release. Now these volunteers can continue to work with offenders as they transition back to their community.

These are only some of the great things being accomplished in this Agency. I am proud of everyone working to insure that these initiatives work to improve our business. As I have said before, we are a first-class team dedicated to making a difference in the lives of people on the inside and protecting people on the outside, everyday. ■



The Indiana Black Expo convened this year July 9th through July 16th. Several members of DOC staff attended the Corporate Luncheon held on July 13th with keynote speaker, Academy Award winner and humanitarian Sidney Poitier. The Department of Correction partnering with PEN Products displayed many of the Department's initiatives and programs, handing out over 1,500 Volunteer, Re-entry and PLUS brochures. Various staff from custody to administrative support volunteered their time to represent the Department at this prestigious event. ■



## Re-Entry Activities and News

*Julie von Arx, Deputy Commissioner of Re-entry and Community Programs*

### Re-Entry

#### Transition from Prison to Community Initiative

On July 27, 2006, the Housing and Community Development Authority Board of Directors approved the Re-entry Housing Initiative, which will provide vouchers to cover an apartment deposit, rent, and down payment on utilities for newly-released offenders in need. Two agencies, Northwest Indiana Reentry Partnership and PACE/OAR, were selected to administer the program which will serve six counties.

#### VISTA Volunteers

The Corporation for National and Community Service has granted the Department five full-time VISTA volunteers to assist with re-entry efforts both at Central Office and Plainfield Re-entry Education Facility through work in research and planning, pre-release re-entry programs, and gender-responsive programming.

### Substance Abuse

#### Phase I Treatment

Six county jails (Blackford, Harrison, Putnam, Wayne, Wells, and West Central) have been trained to use the SAMS system and administer curriculum for Phase I of the Substance Abuse Treatment Program. This will enable offenders to begin treatment earlier, and to enter the Department with a demonstrated commitment to addiction recovery.

#### CLIFF Graduation

Miami Correctional Facility hosted a CLIFF graduation for ninety-six offenders on July 26, 2006. Thus far, 566 offenders have graduated from CLIFF programs statewide. The next graduation will be August 18th at Branchville.

### Juvenile Services

#### Parenting Seminar

On August 19, 2006, the Youth Law T.E.A.M. will present "Your Role as an Educational Advocate," the first in a series of seminars for parents of juvenile offenders. The seminar will be held at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility, and will cover advocating for your child, basic educational rights, working with your child's school, and transitioning to adulthood.

#### Boy Scouts

The Department is working with the Boy Scouts of America, recognized as one of "the nation's foremost youth program[s] of character development and values-based leadership training," to establish Scout troops in the Juvenile facilities. Training was recently completed for staff wishing to serve as Scoutmasters. The Boy Scouts of America and facility troop leaders are working to coordinate youth recruitment and initial programs by mid-August. The Department also plans to organize a Girl Scout troop at the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility.

#### Juvenile Re-Entry Workgroup

A multi-agency workgroup has met to discuss barriers to successful re-entry for juvenile offenders. The discussion centered around establishing continuity of services for youth as they leave Department of Correction facilities, with an emphasis on education. Coordinated efforts with several agencies are in progress, notably with the Indiana Department of Education.

### Education

#### IVY Tech at PREF

IVY Tech Community College is now teaching courses at the Plainfield Re-Entry Education Facility. Thirty-

five offenders are enrolled in Entrepreneurship, Hospitality (S.T.A.R.T.), and Logistics, with plans to offer a nine-month certificate track as the program expands. IVY Tech courses are offered in addition to the Department's GED, Building Trades, and Culinary Arts classes, which currently enroll twenty-nine offenders.

### Community Corrections/Parole APPA Conference

Staff from Parole and Community Corrections attended the American Probation and Parole Association's 31st Annual Training Institute, held in Chicago July 24-26, 2006. Seminar topics included Managing High Risk/Needs Offenders, Exploring the Relationship between Assessment and Re-offending, Providing Residential Treatment to the Mentally Impaired Offender, and Current Challenges for the Judiciary with Evidence-Based Practices in Community Supervision.

### Community Corrections 2006-2007 Grant Awards

Beginning this year, all counties submitting applications for Community Corrections funds must utilize Evidence-Based Practices and the Principles of Effective Intervention within their programs to receive funding from the State. Sixty-three applications were submitted covering sixty-eight counties. To date, \$25,441,310.02 has been approved for funding Community Corrections Agencies throughout the state and \$1,511,621.65 more has been designated to be awarded in the second half of this fiscal year. Fifty-five grant contracts have been completely processed and the initial installment of their awards issued; the remainder will be completed by mid-August. ■

**Visit online: [www.reentry.in.gov](http://www.reentry.in.gov)**



## Busy Summer at Medaryville

Staff and offenders from the Medaryville Correctional Facility have been busy this summer getting involved in helping area communities clean up, beautify and save money. The facility has provided staff supervised offender work crews to assist local government agencies and not for profit organizations to complete a variety of projects and services.

Some of the aid provided this summer has included set up and pack up of the Red Cross Blood Mobil at Winamac and North Judson, street cleaning and cooking pork chops for the Potato Festival at Medaryville and cleaning the Pulaski County Fair grounds after this year's 4-H Fair ended. Medaryville Correctional Facility also provided offender crews to plant trees along the streets of Winamac and aid in the construction and clean up at Camp Buffalo Boy Scouts Camp.



The labor provided by these offenders has resulted in over \$200,000 in savings to the agencies or organizations served. Many of these projects may not have been completed if not for the cost saving labor provided by the offender work crews of Medaryville Correctional Facility. The offenders who have participated on these work crews also benefit by sharpening marketable employment skills and contributing positively to the improvement of area communities. ■

## Learning to Serve

The participants in the P.L.U.S. unit at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility are learning service through quilting. The giving of warm blankets is symbolic of caring and gratitude, which transcends cultural barriers. Starting by hand stitching and later with sewing machines, twenty-three quilts have been finished with a growing number in progress. Orders from various non-profit agencies increase weekly as the news travels. Ten quilts were distributed to victims of the Katrina Hurricane. Other quilts have been donated to the sick and afflicted; one being a cancer victim who reported being cold all the time was warmed, physically, spiritually and emotionally when she received a quilt through a volunteer. Governor Mitch Daniels was given a quilt by P.L.U.S. participants in thanks for his support of their community service efforts. His thank you letter to the unit said "I receive many thoughtful mementos in this job, but I will treasure this particular one always. Please know how hopeful your fellow citizens are about your future and the commitment you have made to it." ■

## NABCJ Conference

The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) hosted its 33rd Annual Conference and Training Institute on July 16 - 20 in Denver, Colorado. The theme of this year's conference was "Re-entry and Restoration: A Time for Action." Indiana Department of Correction employees participated in several workshops that focused on re-entry, the psychology of incarceration, community development, education, and other correctional issues.

Keynote speakers during the conference included Anthony W. Batts, Chief of Police for the Long Beach, California police

department, and Elaine Bartlett, a formerly incarcerated activist who founded the Mothers of the New York Disappeared, a grassroots organization working to reform New York State's Rockefeller Drug Laws.

Since 1974, NABCJ has worked to achieve equal justice for blacks and other minorities in the justice system. Members consist of criminal justice professionals and community leaders such as those in law enforcement, institutional and community corrections, courts, social services, academia, religious, and other community-based interests. ■

## Grover Spends a Day with the Boss



On June 20, Commissioner J. David Donahue furloughed Grover, a 6-month Yellow Lab from the Indiana Women's Prison's ICAAN Program. Grover spent the day with Commissioner Donahue, while attending meetings and learning about human interaction, socialization, and following directions. ■

# Facility Gives Inmates a Head Start

*Reprinted from the Indy Star - By Amy Bartner*

**M**any of the state's inmates have never had a checking account. Others don't know how to interview for a job – or even how to look for one.

So when prisoners are released into society, the transition might be tough to make, enough to force them back into a life of crime.

It's a cycle officials with the Indiana Department of Correction hope to break with a new rehabilitation facility in Plainfield.

"For years in Corrections, we've locked folks up, and at the end, we opened the doors and said, 'Good luck,'" Correction commissioner J. David Donahue said at the program's grand opening. "Well, it's a tough world out there if you don't have support behind you."

The Plainfield Re-Entry and Educational Facility, formerly the Indiana Boys School, opened in mid-January as an option to offenders nearing the end of their terms. They spend 18 to 24 months learning how to acclimate to life on the outside. The facility is less than half full, holding 179 people who are learning trades, getting job-search assistance and continuing their educations.

More than 16,000 people will be released from DOC prisons this year, and of those, an estimated 39.3 percent will return to the system within three years. With the re-entry facility, Donahue said, he hopes to lower that rate by 5 percent and, in turn, save Indiana taxpayers \$80 million a year.

"We are going to keep score, and we'll learn what we do well," Donahue said. "And we'll also report our failures."

Damian Golder, 28, sentenced to 21 months for probation violation and possession of cocaine, has served five months of his sentence at the re-entry facility. The father of two has learned to pour concrete and said he values the

respect he's received from the staff.

"You've got a little more freedom than anywhere else," he said as he sat in his personal communications class. "You can walk around, lift some weights, and shoot some pool."

Golder said he has yet to find a job but plans to continue his education.

"I'm more focused on getting a job now," he said. "Probably the main problem is getting back on the streets without anything."

The residents apply for admission to the program and must have a history of good behavior to enroll. The program doesn't accept sex offenders.



Staff members call the people held in the facility residents instead of inmates because that's how they're viewed, program maintenance supervisor Carl Brown said.

"I would recommend them to anyone on the outside," he said. "A lot of it is letting them get self-respect back." ■

## DOC Superstar

**Aaron Holden**

**A**aron Holden won't admit he's a hero. "You do what you gotta do," he said. On June 15th James M. Ashcroft, Aaron's neighbor, was transported by helicopter to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis after Aaron, pulled him from a retention pond. Ashcroft was mowing his yard with a large professional-grade mower and got too close to a retention pond. The embankment was too steep and the mower rolled over on top of him. He was submerged in about seven feet of water. Thinking quick, Aaron dove in, rescued his neighbor, saving the man's life.

Aaron came to teach Adult Basic Education with the Indiana Department of Correction at the Correctional Industrial Facility in July of 2000. In addition to his Adult Basic Education teaching

assignment, Aaron leads classes in Thinking for A Change, serves on the North Central accreditation committee, participates in the Professional Development Activities, active member of the Indiana State Teachers Association, presenter for the RE-ENTRY, volunteers for Pendleton Heights High School Athletic activities and a member of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

Aaron and his wife Maria have a daughter Brooke. Aaron enjoys golf, Indianapolis Colts, anything Purdue, but most important to him is time with his family.

To read the rest of the story, go to:

[http://www.theheraldbulletin.com/apstorysection/local\\_story\\_166204335.html](http://www.theheraldbulletin.com/apstorysection/local_story_166204335.html) ■

## Tuition Reimbursement Program

It is with great pleasure that I announce the Tuition Reimbursement Program for DOC employees, effective September 1, 2006. With Governor Mitch Daniels approval, this program will help employees pursue higher educational goals and to promote employee development within the corrections profession. My commitment to employees with the Indiana Department of Correction includes creating professional opportunities leading to promotions within the agency.

Our efficient processes, cost savings and smart business solutions have allowed us to reallocate funds to the future development of employees within the Department. As we continue to operate by the 3 E's of Excellence, I am committed to a positive work environment for all DOC employees. The Tuition Reimbursement Program is just one way we are investing in the future of our employees.

The Tuition Reimbursement Program is a state-funded tuition reimbursement program for all permanent employees who choose to take educational courses. For more information please see your Regional HR representative:

Ed Denham, Region 1 includes: Indiana State Prison, Westville Correctional Facility, Camp Summit and Medaryville

Karen Hurst, Region 2 includes: Miami Correctional Facility, South Bend Juvenile, Northeast Juvenile, North Central Juvenile, Logansport Juvenile Intake, Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility and South Bend Work Release

Eric Kleinart, Region 3 includes: Rockville Correctional Facility, Putnamville Correctional Facility, Plainfield Correctional Facility,

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility and Reception Diagnostic Center

Dan Kapoun, Region 4 includes: Pendleton Correctional Facility, Correctional Industrial Facility, Pendleton Juvenile, Indiana Women's Prison, Indianapolis Men's and Women's Work Release Centers, PEN Products and Indianapolis Juvenile ■



**800.PEN.2550**

**[www.penproducts.com](http://www.penproducts.com)**

## DOC Commissioner Presents Awards at Special Olympics Indiana

Sustaining a long tradition of partnership with Special Olympics Indiana, Indiana State University hosted 2,200 Special Olympics athletes from across the state for the 2006 Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games. Commissioner J. David Donahue was invited to support the event and presented awards at the event.

"Summer Games is Special Olympics Indiana's largest event of the year and thousands of volunteers throughout the



**Commissioner J. David Donahue presents awards to participants in Terre Haute, Indiana.**



state worked very hard to make the event successful," said Debbie Hesse, President and CEO of Special Olympics Indiana. "Over 2,200 children and adults with intellectual disabilities from across the state competed at the three-day event. We are thrilled that Commissioner Donahue could attend and present awards to our awesome athletes." ■





## From the Administration Division

**Bruce Lemmon**, Deputy Commissioner of Administration

### PEN Products

On June 15th, PEN Products initiated its first U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility print shop.



Seventeen offenders embarked on the 4-year program that requires 8,000 hours including 545 hours of classroom training and 7,455 hours of on the job training. Upon successful completion, the offenders will earn a nationally recognized certificate as a journeyman level Offset Press Operator. Offenders leaving IDOC as journeyman offset press operators will have marketable skills and a great future.



**Putnamville Farm Industries**

After eight years of leasing the farm land at the Putnamville Correctional Facility, PEN Products has begun

farming operations including hay, corn, soy beans, a starter goat herd and a beef herd. Commissioner Donahue, Deputy Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, Superintendent Parke, Director Mike Herron along with herdsman Charlie Tomaw, PEN staff and guests from the Department of Administration and the Office of Management and Budget take a close look the pure bred Angus bull branded 06. The bull was purchased through the Indiana Evaluation Program (Indiana Bull Test Station) and the first sired calves will make their appearance at Putnamville in early spring of 2007.

Additional farming initiatives include collaboration between Purdue University Agriculture Department and the USDA/ Natural Resource Conservation Service - Forage and Grazing Specialist to develop a long range plan to blend our natural resources and our livestock production needs.

### Research and Planning

The Department is in the process of establishing a sex offender workgroup, made up of local sheriff department staff, to help standardize sex offender registration and registry activities across the state. The group will work to develop standardized procedures for registration, develop common forms that can be used by each county, identify training and informational needs, etc. The group will meet monthly beginning this Fall.

### Staff Development and Training

Staff Development and Training, with the assistance of Human Resources completed the first phase of Mentoring Training for the Department. The Mentoring Program is the vision of the Agency Head to promote professional growth and inspire personal and professional motivation, thus enhancing the effectiveness of all new employees in the Department of Correction. Mentors will provide assistance and guidance to new employees during their

probationary period. Their input will provide new employees with a better understanding of the Department's mission and goals along with their role in the Department, with the expectation of improving staff retention. This program will be implemented throughout the field in the near future.

### Technology Services

During the past year, the State of Indiana has gone through the process of consolidating all IT support services into a single support agency in order to save the State money as well as avoid duplication of staff and services. As of August 7, you may reach the IOT Help Desk at (800)382-1095 or 234-HELP and one of the IOT Helpdesk technicians will answer your call and either resolve your problem, or open a ticket for another support level to resolve your problem. You should be able to find this number on a sticker on the hard drive of your computer. ■

## Juveniles Committed to Community Service

South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility Students have recently participated in well over a dozen community service projects. The students have worked scores of hours cleaning alleyways, streets, sidewalks, vacant lots and along railroad tracks filling over a hundred bags of trash. The students have assisted numerous groups and agencies such, as packing toys and food for Hurricane Katrina victims while working with LeSea Ministries, the Northern Indiana Food Bank, St. Vincent DePaul Society, The Parks Departments and South Bend Code Enforcement. The best rewards come when strangers thank students for their hard work in giving back to the community. ■



## Play Ball

The staff and offenders at the Indiana State Prison and the Intra City and Babe Ruth Little League have formed a partnership to improve the league's infrastructures and the quality of the baseball program.

The participants have worked extremely hard this spring to get the two ball diamonds, located on prison property, ready for the opening day, which occurred on Monday, June 12. League officials provided all the materials and Superintendent Ed Buss provided the offender labor. Off duty prison staff members supervised offenders from the prison's minimum-security unit who were assigned the tasks. The prison will also maintain the lawns in and around the ball fields, with supplies provided by the league.

In addition to the repairs, camp prison staff and offenders have also raised enough money to sponsor five teams. The custody officers led by Major Bob Cabanaw donated the money to sponsor the "Custody Cubs."



Not to be outdone Superintendent Ed Buss and staff have raised money and are sponsoring the "Warden's White Sox's." Two offender organizations the JAYCEE'S and the American Legion Post No.130 are sponsoring the "Michigan City Hawk Eyes" and ARAMARK, the company that is providing the food service for the prison, is sponsoring the "ARAMARK Yankees" and the "Braves."

On Monday, June 12, Major Bob Cabanaw threw out the first pitch of the game. The competition appears to be heating up after the Warden's White Sox's beat the Custody Cubs 14 to 7 during the opening game. One thing is for sure, a lot of young boys and girls are going to be enjoying themselves this season. ■

## PEN Produces Major Moves Signs

### PEN Making Signs - Creating Jobs

PEN Products sign operation at the Westville Correctional Facility recently manufactured 200 specialty information signs for the Indiana Department of Transportation. Two sizes of signs were made; 75 signs were 4 foot by 8 foot; 125 signs were 48" x 30". These signs were manufactured and delivered to INDOT's Logistics Support Center on Friday July 7th and Monday July 10th. INDOT installed the first "Major Moves" signs on July 10th.



As you wander Indiana or wait in a construction zone, look for the blue and white signs that say:

**Drive Safely  
Indiana is Making Major Moves  
Building Roads  
Creating Jobs** ■

## Families at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility

Staff at the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional facility made a day of it, celebrating facility-wide our commitment to one another and our families during the annual "Employee Recognition Day", held in conjunction with our quarterly Staff Recall meeting.

The employee appreciation committee, led by Natalie Walker with members Sarita Terrell, Leann Childress, Jennifer Spear, Bernice Stacey, Sondra Woods, and Debbie Cline cooked up burgers, wings, and hot dogs (complete with all the "fixings") and celebrated on the lawn with games and activities for children and family members of staff.

The late-morning showers did not dampen spirits and activities moved inside to the chapel for an assembly recognizing Officer Nunn, Assistant Principal White and Teacher Shah as Employees of the Quarter. Recipient of the Making a Difference Award, Sergeant Leo Harris, was also recognized. Staff receiving service award pins were recognized, as were Spot Bonus award winners.

Superintendent Dempsey and Assistant Superintendent Commons were complimentary and appreciative of the teamwork and extra effort demonstrated by the facility's fine staff. ■



## From the Operations Division

*Edward B. Motley, Deputy Commissioner of Operations*

### Work Release Centers

Volunteers of America of Indiana

has received a \$20,000 Families Count Family Strengthening Awards grant through a joint partnership of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Volunteers of America national. The grant recognizes exemplary programs that improve the outcomes for children by holistically serving families. The awards program works to increase family self sufficiency and self determination, and strengthen community support for families. The grant will be used in the Healing Families program, a program within Theodora House, Volunteers of America of Indiana's 80-bed community based center for women transitioning from prison or jail back to the community.

Volunteers of America, Indiana was also the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Major League Baseball Players Association charitable foundation. The Players Trust, the first of its kind in professional sports, was established and is administered by the players to improve the lives of the needy and to encourage others to do the same. This grant will purchase "toolkits" that provide positive, structured activities that the mothers and children can do together to help build positive family bonds.

Volunteers of America serves as a contract work-release center for the Indiana Department of Correction operating three facilities: Theodora House located in Indianapolis serving women, Brandon Hall located in Indianapolis serving men, and Hope Hall in Evansville serving a co-ed population.

### Emergency Response Operations

The Emergency Response Operation Competition took place this year June 07, 2006 at Pendleton Heights High School in Pendleton, Indiana. It was

a great turn out as usual despite the raining on and off through out the day. All the teams that competed were from all over the State ranging from CISM (Critical Incident System Team), SITCON (Situation Control Team i.e. negotiators), K-9 (Canine), E-Squads (Emergency Squads) and both the Central and Northern SERT (Special Emergency Response Team). It was a great day for all that competed and attended showing everyone the camaraderie and team work that is involved with being a part of any emergency team. This competition is done every year and encourages everyone on these teams to stay mentally and physically fit while being a part of a specialized team.

Also attending were soldiers from the Army National Guard Unit at Stout Field in Indianapolis. A big thank you goes out to them for allowing us to utilize some of their equipment such as a climbing wall for a new event this year and the Five Ton trucks for the truck pull. Thanks to all the volunteers that came from surrounding facilities to help Emergency Response Operations set up the events and help maintain a steady flow all day. Everyone worked hard all day, especially all those that were competing, as it showed their dedication to their profession and to everyone that attended.

### Operational Support Services

As of January 20, 2006 the IDOC jail population was 1,691. In February 2006, Operational Support Services, with the assistance of the Reception Diagnostic Center, accelerated the intake of the Indiana Department of Correction offenders in the county jails. This was due to the newly privatized New Castle Correctional Facility opening up new IDOC beds. The current Indiana Department of Correction jail population is now below 1000 offenders.

To optimize performance of the Operational Support Services, the

Community Transition Program Section has now stopped mailing the eligible Community Transition Program offender's progress reports, conduct summaries and face sheets to the Community Correction Components and the Prosecuting Attorneys. We are now faxing this information to them. This is saving over \$6,000.00 a year for these mailings. As this process streamlines, we will also start faxing the judges. We are always looking for a better way. ■

## Painting the Past



Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Recreation Coordinator, Mike Miller and his staff came up with the idea to put their talented offender artists to work, art work that is, to benefit the community. The Sullivan County area is filled with historical landmarks and with talented offender artists like Danny Adams it's a shame not to paint and preserve them.

As a result a small black and white photo, taken in 1936 of the Indian Prairie Baptist Church has taken on new life. The portrait of the historic Carlisle, Indiana church was recently presented to Reverend Paul Jones. The picture will hang in the church, above an old pew rescued from a fire at the original church building. Adams took just a week and a half to complete the painting and he looks forward to many more projects in the future. ■

## Greyhound Prison Partnership Saves Lives of Greyhounds

The Indiana Department of Correction and the National Greyhound Foundation, a leading Greyhound Rescue, a non-profit organization launched its new SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE: GREYHOUND & INMATES Prison Partnership in four of Indiana's correctional facilities.

"The Greyhound Rescue program at the Correctional Industrial Facility, Branchville Correctional Facility, Plainfield Re-entry and Education and Miami Correctional Facility will allow offenders to bond with the dogs and make them more family-friendly. The bonding will allow the retired racing greyhounds to become adoptable," said Commissioner J. David Donahue.

The Second Chance at Life: Inmates and Greyhounds Prison Partnership is free to the State of Indiana and will establish a prison pet program that will provide a Foster Care Home and Inmate caretakers for retired racing greyhounds.

"This is the first time many of these inmates have ever experienced unconditional love," says NGF Executive Director, Beverly Sebastian. "And there's nothing like a greyhound to show you that love."

"We are really about trying to reform and promote behavioral opportunity changes for the men, women in our system and our kids. But this is also about creating an opportunity for the community. We are excited to implement this program as part of providing rehabilitation to offenders and saving 300 retired racing greyhounds in the coming year," added Donahue.

The Partnership not only benefits the greyhounds, but provides a complete curriculum and job training for the inmate from their selection into the program, through re-entry back into

the community. Bob Campbell, volunteer-services coordinator at Branchville stated, "It's a program that's going to teach the offenders important skills like responsibility."

SCAL is the first program of its kind to have an evaluation data bank on recidivism and the success of the program.

The nation wide collaboration when completed, will partner over one hundred Department of Corrections



facilities, one hundred Greyhound Adoption Partners, 18,000 inmates and community adoptive parents, all working together to save more than 6,000 retired racing greyhound's lives each year. ■

## Indiana Celebrates the Graduation of the First Women's Meth Treatment Program in Prison

On April 26, 2006 Rockville Correctional Facility graduated 48 offenders from the Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever (CLIFF) program. "We believe in you, we are all behind you, and we love each one of you," Governor Mitch Daniels told the graduates. "We can not be a great state if we leave anybody behind, especially those who stumble in life. I'm looking out at this group, and I think I see 40-50 beautiful women with purpose and goals. Now you just have to see it through. When you do, it will be a big victory for you, for your families and for the state of Indiana."

The Women's Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever (CLIFF) program was developed specifically for female offenders that are addicted to methamphetamine. This special unit opened on September 1, 2005 with 80 offenders. These offenders attend group therapy, substance abuse



**Gene Martin, Commissioner Donahue and Governor Daniels congratulate graduates.**

educational and peer supported activities up to 15 hours each day. The program addresses not only substance abuse, but trauma and other abuse that has plagued these women for years. Once the women have completed the program, they may stay and be mentors on the unit, or be transferred to a work release program until they are released back to their communities. ■



## CAMA Conference



The 19th Annual Correctional Accreditation Managers Association (CAMA) Conference was hosted by the Indiana Department of Correction in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference provided attendees the opportunity to increase their expertise and knowledge regarding accreditation, network with colleagues and access many resources for professional growth.

Hosted in a city known for its racing the 2006 Race to CAMA Conference focused on a host of accreditation topics such as Trends in Accreditation, Professional Certification Programs, Accrediting Juvenile Facilities, Accrediting Parole Agencies, Jail Accreditation, Accrediting Old Facilities, Accreditation Requirements and Making your mark on Accreditation.

In addition to Accreditation topics Indiana hosted workshops on innovative approaches to Reentry such as: Suicide Prevention, Indiana CLIFF Units, and Women's Prison Programs.

The conference included two powerful luncheon speeches by Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary Richard Stalder on "Managing Corrections in the Time of Crisis-The effect of Hurricane Katrina" and Indiana's very own J. David Donahue Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction who gave a Mother's Day tribute on "What Mama says Impacts the World of Corrections". ■

## Indiana Provides Innovative Solutions

Indiana's Lt. Governor Skillman, Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner J. David Donahue, and John Murphy, Vice President and General Manager of Johnson Controls Inc., announced that four state prisons will be converted to systems that burn corn for heat.

"Indiana is becoming a leader in the bio-energy area. We have become an overnight success in the bio-fuels production game and are rapidly expanding the number of public pumps that offer E85 - ethanol fuel made from corn - and bio-diesel - diesel fuel made from soybean oil - to Hoosiers," said Lt. Governor Skillman.

"This contract will change the way we do business and affect all of corrections - employees, offenders and facilities," said Commissioner Donahue. "These improvements include upgrades and retrofits to energy management systems, installation of water conservation devices, facility-wide lighting upgrades and a cleaner environment."

The Department of Correction will be installing four corn-fueled biomass systems at the Plainfield Correctional facility, Pendleton Correctional facility, Westville Correctional facility and Indiana State Prison. Indiana corn will fuel the boilers and Hoosier contractors will install them. Each year, the Department of Correction expects to spend 2.6 million dollars buying Indiana corn - or more than 1.6 million bushels of corn grown on 116 thousand acres of Hoosier farmland.



(L-R) Jim Hanson, John Murphy, VP, both of Johnson Controls, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, and Indiana Dept. of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue, Wednesday, June 7, 2006 at a ceremony held at the Plainfield Correctional Center celebrating new energy management upgrades for Indiana Department of Correction facilities, including the installation of four Indiana corn-fueled biomass boilers, Plainfield, Ind. (PRNewsFoto/Johnson Controls, Inc., John Harrell).

"This is really a win, win deal," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "Not only will Indiana farmers have a new market for their corn, the Department of Correction will save millions on energy costs."

"This project truly is Indiana people, growing and buying Indiana corn to improve the efficiency of Indiana facilities while having a global impact on the environment," said John Murphy, Vice President and General Manager, Johnson Controls. "Johnson Controls is excited to be a part of such a dynamic and innovative solution to energy concerns and aging facility systems."

"This plan also has a positive impact on taxpayers because it is self-funding: money saved from the energy savings will pay the debt service associated with this project. We are proud of the Department of Correction for that money saving, fiscally-conscience idea," added Lt. Governor Skillman. ■

## Prisoners Shift Gears at the Indiana Department of Correction

Commissioner J. David Donahue is pleased to announce another exciting work skills development program that will benefit offenders and communities. The Department of Correction is partnering with The Bicycle Garage Indy, and Volunteers of America to collect donated bicycles from the general public and refurbish them at the Pendleton Correctional Facility and the Indiana State Prison.

"This Shifting Gears: Recycled Bikes Program is a win-win-win opportunity. First, offenders will have the opportunity to develop skills and discipline that will be useful to them upon release. Second, there are so many unfulfilled needs for bicycles, be they for fun or for transportation, and the product of this program can really help to meet those needs. Lastly, the donor can feel



good about their contribution to meeting these needs and also receive a tax deduction. It doesn't get any better than that," said Commissioner J. David Donahue.

All donations of bicycles will be received by Volunteers of America and will become fully tax deductible for the donor.

BGI has two locations where bicycles can be donated: Bicycle Garage Indy - North, 4130 East 82nd Street, Indianapolis or at Bicycle Garage Indy - South, 997 East County Line Road, Greenwood.

"Not only will the program develop valuable work skills among inmates but the refurbished bicycles will be donated to a variety of not-for-profit organizations who will distribute them where needs exist but financial resources do not," added Donahue. ■

## Relay for Life

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Miami County for the second year, raising \$2,849.62.

Relay for Life is an overnight celebration of hope, progress and answers. In honor of the 8.5 million Americans who have survived cancer, teams of friends, families and co-workers raise funds to support the continued fight against the disease. During the event, the teams gather at the Peru High School track and take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times.

MCF held several fund-raisers over a three-month period to raise money. The "Miami Cancer Fighters", which was the name of their team, held a concert – featuring two MCF staffers who play in a band; had a "game of chance"; had a Texas Hold'em tournament; and sold T-shirts. Congratulations to the Miami Cancer Fighters on a job well done. ■

## Who's Who

South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility Superintendent Dawn Buss has been with the Department of Correction for eighteen years. She started her career with DOC as a Correctional Officer at Plainfield Correctional Facility she went on to serve as Counselor at Correctional Industrial Facility and Westville Correctional Facility, and then Case manager at Westville. She is recognized as the first female Unit Manager at a maximum security facility in Indiana. Ms. Buss has served as Assistant Superintendent at Westville and Indiana State Prison. In April of 2005 she assumed her duties as Superintendent at South Bend Juvenile. Ms. Buss has a Bachelor's

Degree from Ball State University, majoring in Criminal Justice and Criminology.

### Personal

#### Interests:

Spending time at the beach, cooking out with family and friends, trivia games and Suduko puzzles.

#### Last Book Read:

Who Moved My Cheese?

#### Favorite Inspirational Quote:

Be the change you wish to see in the world. – Ghandi ■



Dawn Buss

**improve  
it and  
do it!**



## Setting Sail



The U.S.S. Vincennes is back on active duty after a yearlong construction project at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. The ship is a lot smaller than the original U.S.S. Vincennes but it has a big mission.

The Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society wanted a model of the ship to be part of a travelling display at Knox County Schools. Offender Larry James, a model builder for over 42 years agreed to make the model using paper, twine and a lot of glue. Nearly three thousand hours later the ship was finished. James used charts and plans the historical society obtained from the Smithsonian to build the model.

The original U.S.S. Vincennes was commissioned in 1826 and was the first naval vessel to circle the world, also serving as the 1840 Antarctica expedition flagship. Now the society wants James to tackle models of the other three U.S.S. Vincennes ships.

Board member Belle Kasting, who also serves on the WVCF Advisory Board, says the model project is an invaluable educational tool for the children of Vincennes, Indiana. ■

## Letter to the Editor

*Reprinted from the Indy Star, July 23, 2006*



STATE OF INDIANA  
Department of Correction

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Governor

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J. David Donahue  
Commissioner

Letter to the Editor  
The Indianapolis Star  
P.O. Box 145  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-0145

Dear Editor:

As Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction I was pleased to read Dana Knight's story entitled "5 Jobs That Protect", which highlights, among other public safety careers, the correctional employee, which she describes as having "one of the toughest jobs in law enforcement." I could not agree more, and am happy to see staff getting the recognition they deserve.

The simple fact is that correctional employees are essential to a successful criminal justice system. Everyday they suit up and contend with people convicted of serious crimes, and courageously safeguard Indiana communities by preventing criminals from returning to the community to threaten public safety. In addition to this, correctional staff must also control offender behavior in prison, and protect the inmates from each other, protect their fellow staff, and even protect offenders from themselves. This must be accomplished while providing programs and treatment to these same offenders to try and curb their criminal mindset so they can return to society as law abiding citizens, which is another form of public protection.

It is important to mention that this past Session of Indiana's General Assembly, Governor Daniels and I worked with Senators Mike Young and Anita Bowser to introduce legislation, which the Members of the General Assembly unanimously supported, and which recognizes the hazardous duty service performed by correctional employees that protect the State's law abiding majority from its offending members. This legislation paves the way for improved benefits and other compensatory enhancements, and promotes a higher level of professionalism to this deserving group of public servants.

Again, my sincere appreciation goes to your reporter, Dana Knight, and your editorial staff for recognizing the important public safety responsibilities carried out each day by Indiana's state and local correctional employees.

J. David Donahue  
Commissioner IDOC

EOE



## DOC Triples Donations for The Villages Kids

The Indiana Department of Correction kicked off their fund raising efforts, to collect donations for The Villages of Indiana, on April 04, 2006, at the Indiana State Prison. Linda Adams, Executive Director of The Villages of Indiana, provided a brief overview of The Villages and the children that were helped with the Departments previous year donation of six thousand four hundred forty dollars and thirty-one (\$6,440.31).

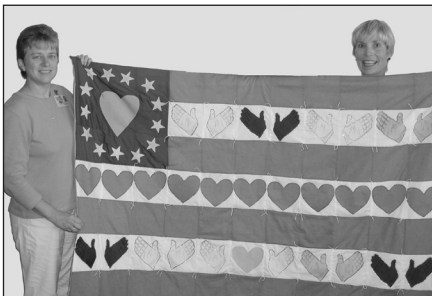
On August 10, 2006, the Department held a brief ceremony to present The Villages of Indiana with yet another donation, complete with backpacks and school supplies for two hundred (200) children. With the combined support and efforts of staff and offenders throughout the Department, the Indiana Department of Correction was able to present The Villages of Indiana with a check that far exceeded expectations. Thanks to the generosity of staff and

offenders, the Indiana Department of Correction was able to present a check to The Villages of Indiana in the amount of **\$19,054.24**.

The top three facilities leading in donations were the Putnamville Correctional Facility, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility and Henryville Correctional Facility. ■

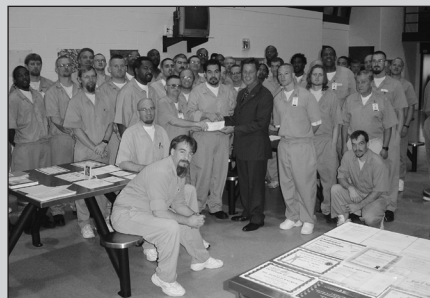


## Hand-made Quilt Donated by Offenders



Linda Adams of The Villages was presented with a hand-made quilt donated by the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility PLUS program. Pictured Left is Janna Anderson, right is Linda Adams.

## PLUS Unit Offenders Presented Check to "The Villages of Indiana"



The Purposeful Living Units Serve offenders from Miami Correctional Facility presented Commissioner Donahue with a \$500 donation for The Villages Project Backpack.



PLUS offenders at Branchville Correctional Facility presented Deputy Commissioner Bruce Lemmon with a check for The Villages project backpack.

## Offenders Lend a Hand with Michigan City's Tree Planting Efforts



In an effort to improve the scenic beauty of the city, the Indiana State Prison Minimum Security Unit and the Michigan City Streets and Sanitation Department are planting hundreds of trees within the city.

"The project is moving much faster than I had anticipated," said Michigan City Forester, Frank Seilheimer. "The offenders are excellent workers and have done a commendable job during the

detail. Over 70 trees were planted by the offenders in two days."

Ed Buss, ISP Superintendent said, "We are always open to collaboration with the Michigan City Community and feel that we are also providing valuable life skills to our offenders during these endeavors."

"The Department is committed to public safety while promoting opportunities for offenders," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "Planting trees to help improve the landscape of communities in Indiana is great way to create a positive, greener environment."

The Indiana State Prison Minimum Security Unit is located on the grounds of the Indiana State Prison and houses 320 offenders. ■

## Nothing But Net

The Correctional Industrial Facility set up a basketball goal in the parking lot on July 18 and 19 and sold staff members dollar chances to shoot hoops to win daily raffle prizes which were donated. Also included were a free throw contest and a longest shot contest. Each winner received a prize. Over \$190.00 was raised and split between the Nothing but Net Foundation and The Villages Backpack Project. The Nothing but Net Foundation purchases mosquito nets for families in Africa and other third world countries to protect them from malaria. They said \$10 would protect a family of four for about four years. It was nice to help 9 or 10 families in another country and staff raise morale at the same time. ■

## Summer Camp

Many of us take for granted the opportunity to spend the day with the woman who shapes our lives, our mothers. Can you imagine not having the ability to pick up the phone and call your mom or visit her at will? This is the challenge that faces all of the children whose mothers are incarcerated. But for one week a year, these children are given the opportunity to see their mothers on a daily basis and strengthen the bond between them.

Summer Camp is a nationally recognized program designed specifically for incarcerated mothers and their children to engage in activities that promote bonding and family values. This innovative



**Commissioner Donahue interacts with kids at camp.**

camp was held on the grounds at the Indiana Women's Prison and is a five-day experience full of learning, laughs and love. The program is offered to children between the ages of 5 - 12 whose mothers are incarcerated at Indiana Women's Prison and are actively involved in the Family Preservation Program.

Activities included a petting zoo, water activities, daily parades, guest speakers and

entertainers, crafts and barbecues and plenty of ice cream! The camp is made possible by the contributions of individuals, churches and community organizations who are invested in the future of those children who live in their community. ■

## Upcoming Events

### 12th Annual National Major Gang Task Force Conference

Adams Mark Hotel,  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
September 11 - 13, 2006  
Conference registration:  
[www.nmgtf.org](http://www.nmgtf.org).  
Hotel reservations:  
(317) 248-2481 or  
toll free (800)444-2326.

### 73rd Annual ICA Conference "Scaling the Mountain to Re-entry: Following the Path to Success"

Horizon Convention Center  
Muncie, Indiana  
October 4-6, 2006  
Conference registration:  
[www.indianacorrectionalassociation.org](http://www.indianacorrectionalassociation.org)  
Hotel reservations: (765) 741-7777